

# 2012 Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge White-tailed Deer Harvest Report

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Saginaw, MI

The white-tailed deer hunt at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is designed to regulate harvest and distribute hunting pressure by allocating permits across 4 hunt areas and 14 time periods (i.e., hunt choice codes). The 2012 hunt was the first year of a new lottery system. From 2001 to 2011, hunters interested in pursuing white-tailed deer at Shiawassee NWR were required to apply for a permit through a drawing based on a system of preference. The current system is a quota based system in which the number of hunting days, method, and permit type (antlerless versus either sex) are set prior to the hunt. From June – August 2012 hunters could apply on-line or through standard parcel U.S. mail service for the hunt of their preference (hunters could only apply for one hunt). Hunters were randomly selected until the quota was met for each hunt. Selected hunters were notified via electronic mail or through standard mail. A second random lottery was held at the beginning of October for hunts that were undersubscribed (i.e., if hunters from the first lottery did not purchase their permit or if there were not enough applicants for a particular hunt those permits were issued during the second lottery).

In 2012, we received 2,413 applications for 806 permits and issued 760 permits (Table 1, Figure 1). Hunters are required to report harvest via a post-season survey. According to the survey hunters reported harvesting 113 deer, which varied by age and gender; 38% adult male, 2% fawn male, 33% adult doe, 4% fawn doe, and 23% unknown age and gender (Table 2). Hunter success averaged 17%, which was below the 5-year average of 25% (Table 1). Hunter success by season ranged from 9% (late archery) hunt codes 203-204, 14% (muzzleloader) hunt codes 211-214, 20% (early archery) hunt codes 201-202, 24% (non-ambulatory shotgun) hunt codes 205-206, and 26% (shotgun) hunt codes 207-210 (Tables 2 - 3).

Prior to the 2012 white-tailed deer season an outbreak of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) occurred across large portions of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Two deer were submitted to the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildlife Disease Laboratory and both were confirmed positive cases of EHD. In addition, numerous other deer were found dead across the Refuge and were presumed to have died from EHD and were reported to the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab. These deaths contributed to the lower harvest and success rate for the 2012 season.

Table 1. Permits available and issued, registered harvest, and success rate for all white-tailed deer (1982 – 2012) hunts at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, MI.

Year	Permits		Registered harvest	Success (%)
	Available	Issued		
1982	4000	3973	437	11
1983	2350	2375	285	12
1984	1650	1667	150	9
1985	898	857	60	7
1986	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>
1987	659	600	3	0.5
1988	900	867	26	3
1989	705	725	116	16
1990	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>
1991	455	455	182	40
1992	1280	1282	564	44
1993	715	527	127	24
1994	770	<sup>b</sup>	229	<sup>b</sup>
1995	925	<sup>b</sup>	241	<sup>b</sup>
1996	920	769	246	32
1997	910	799	220	28
1998	1010	829	227	27
1999	925	761	211	28
2000	957	765	227	30
2001	820	764	156	20
2002	861	784	172	22
2003	946	835	235	28
2004	1221	1083	329	30
2005	886	724	201	28
2006	886	774	256	33
2007	766	634	172	27
2008	901	714	240	34
2009	981	927	212	23
2010	1216	1058	220	21
2011	926	799	183	23
2012	806	659	113	17

<sup>a</sup> White-tailed deer hunt was not held due to flooding.

<sup>b</sup> Missing data.

Table 2. Hunt area, permits available and issued, number of hunters that “did not hunt”, registered harvest by age and gender, and success rate by hunt code for the 2012 white-tailed deer hunt at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, MI.

Hunt Code <sup>a</sup>	Hunt Area	Applicants	Permits		Did Not Hunt <sup>b</sup>	Male <sup>c</sup>		Female <sup>c</sup>		Unknown <sup>c</sup>	Total Harvest	Success (%) <sup>d</sup>
			Available	Issued		Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn			
201	2	48	30	30	5	0	0	0	0	2	2	8
202	1 & 5	736	100	95	11	17	0	1	0	2	20	22
203	1 & 5	220	100	102	14	4	0	3	0	1	8	10
204	1 & 5	215	100	101	14	5	1	2	0	0	8	9
205	3	29	18	24	1	6	0	0	0	1	7	30
206	3	19	18	18	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	0
207	2	29	30	29	3	1	0	1	0	2	4	15
208	3	137	80	80	15	2	1	13	2	6	24	37
209	2	134	30	30	4	5	0	0	0	0	5	19
210	3	37	80	35	4	0	0	2	1	3	6	19
211	2	138	30	30	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
212	3	488	80	81	3	1	0	3	1	1	6	8
213	2	25	30	25	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
214	3	158	80	80	15	1	0	11	0	8	20	31
Total	-	2,413	806	760	101	43	2	37	5	26	113	17

<sup>a</sup> 201 = October 27 – 30, 202 = November 1 – 6, 203 = December 1 – 5, 204 = December 27 – 31, 205 = November 15 – 16, 206 = November 17 – 18, 207 = November 23 – 24, 208 = November 23 – 24, 209 = November 25 – 26, 210 = November 25 – 26, 211 = December 7 – 8, 212 = December 7 – 8, 213 = December 9 – 10, 214 = December 9 – 10.

<sup>b</sup> Hunters who returned their post-hunt survey card and indicated that they “did not hunt.”

<sup>c</sup> Age and gender are not a required field on the post-season survey card. Hunters who provided age and gender information in the comments section of their post-season survey are summarized in appropriate age/gender column, hunters who did not report age/gender the harvest information was summarized in the unknown column. Hunter reported data is subject to error.

<sup>d</sup> Success was determined by the following formula: Success = (Total Harvest/(Permits Issued – Did Not Hunt))\*100

Table 3. Permits available and issued, number of hunters that “did not hunt”, registered harvest by gender and age, and success rates by hunting season for the 2012 white-tailed deer hunt at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, MI.

Hunt Season <sup>a</sup>	Permits		Did Not Hunt <sup>d</sup>	Male <sup>e</sup>		Female <sup>e</sup>			2012	
	Available	Issued		Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Unknown <sup>e</sup>	Total Harvest	Success (%) <sup>f</sup>
Early archery <sup>b</sup>	130	125	16	17	0	1	0	4	22	20
NA – shotgun	36	42	1	7	0	1	1	1	10	24
Shotgun	220	174	26	8	1	16	3	11	39	26
Muzzleloader	220	216	30	2	0	14	1	9	26	14
Late archery <sup>c</sup>	200	203	28	9	1	5	0	1	16	9
Total	806	760	101	43	2	37	5	26	113	17

<sup>a</sup> Hunt season refers to the combined hunt codes for the corresponding State Of Michigan hunting season (e.g., early archery information is hunt codes 201 and 202 combined).

<sup>b</sup> Early archery refers to season held prior to the statewide firearm opener (November 15<sup>th</sup>).

<sup>c</sup> Late archery refers to season held after the statewide firearm season closes (November 30<sup>th</sup>).

<sup>d</sup> Did not hunt is the number of hunters who returned their post-hunt survey card and indicated they did not hunt.

<sup>e</sup> Age and gender are not a required field on the post-season survey card. Hunters who provided age and gender information in the comments section of their post-season survey are summarized in appropriate age/gender column, hunters who did not report age/gender the harvest information was summarized in the unknown column. Hunter reported data is subject to error.

<sup>f</sup> Success was determined by the following formula  $\text{Success} = (\text{Total Harvest} / (\text{Permits Issued} - \text{Did Not Hunt})) * 100$ .

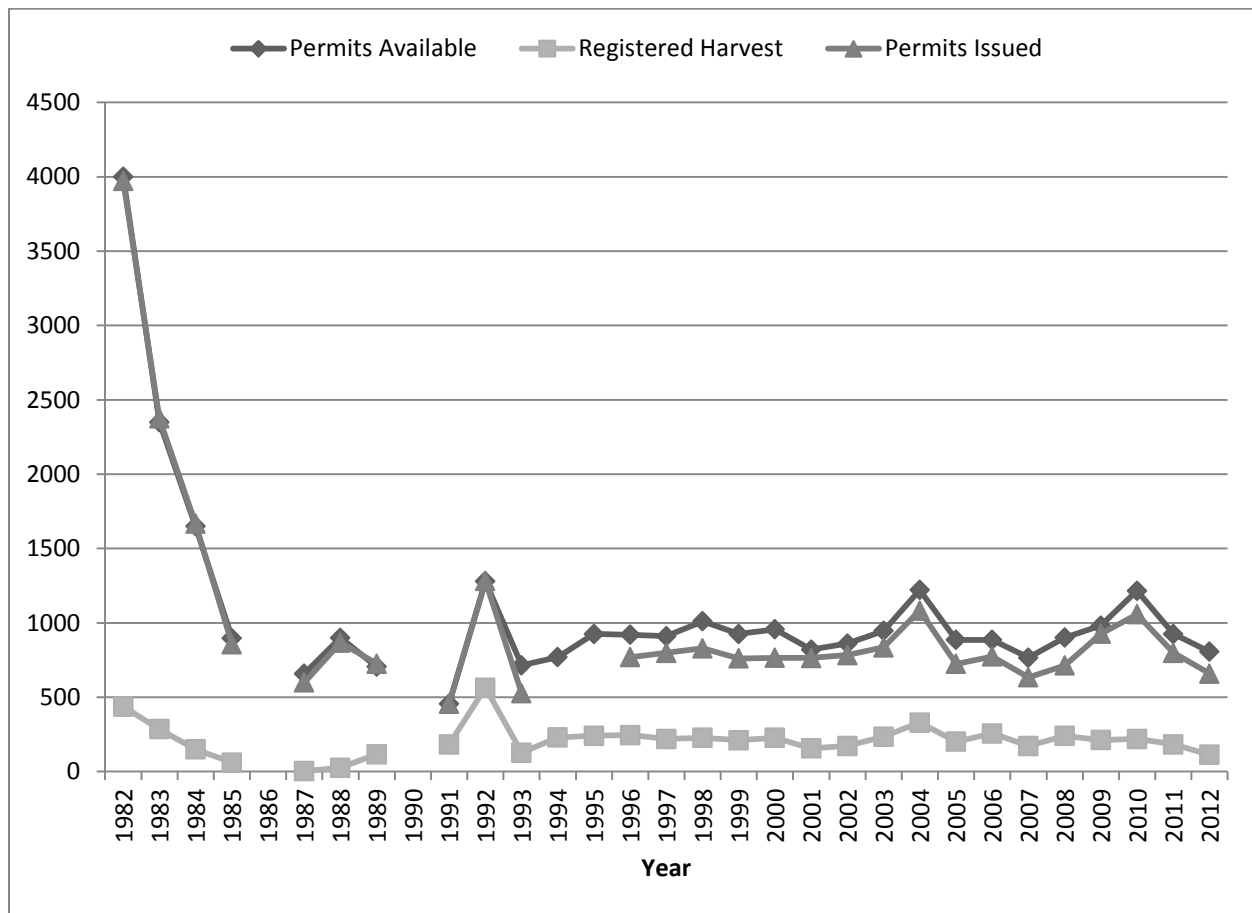


Figure 1. Permits issued, registered harvest, and permits available for the white-tailed deer hunts 1982 – 2012 at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, MI.